Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I do not think that it is a correct interpretation. Areas leased to private parties last year might have been taken back for hill paddy cultivation. But there are so many other factors also, for instance dearth of labour.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I request the Government whether they will be pleased, Sir, to see that in the hill paddy drive to be carried on in 1119 no portion of this 1701 acres leased out to tenants this year will be taken back.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I can assure the Hon'ble Members that it will not be taken back. As a matter of fact even areas that were included in the hill paddy scheme were subsequently thrown out for leasing.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Has the Government any intention to lease out the area in Malakkipara and other places to be opened up by the Anamallais—Chalakkudi road.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* There is a scheme the details of which have not been worked out. Unless the road itself is completed it will be very difficult to get there.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What is the position of the Government with regard to the areas already opened by the Nelliampathi road?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* The lands are there ready for leasing and the question of leasing will depend upon the terms offered by the prospective lessees.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* If a bonafide Cochinite applies for land, may I take it that it will be granted?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* Certainly.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I draw the attention of the Government to an application of mine?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* It is under the consideration of Government. But no orders have been passed.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I take it that it will be sympathetically considered?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* Every application will be sympathetically considered.

ACREAGE, ETC., OF RUBBER PLANTATION OF THE STATE

35. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what is the acreage of rubber plantations in the State;

(*b*) who are the individuals or which are the Companies owning the various plantations;

(*c*) what is the extent of land in the State fit for rubber plantation but not planted?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* (*a*) 11,696·85 acres.

(*b*) A list containing the information is placed on the Council Table.

(*c*) It is not possible to estimate the total extent.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Is it not a fact that there is no land available in the Cochin State fit for rubber cultivation?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I cannot subscribe to that proposition. There are large areas outside forests areas fit for rubber plantation.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What is the area under rubber plantation? Is it not a lakh and fifty thousand acres?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I want notice.

Mr. President: I have to bring one matter to the notice of the hon'ble members. You want to increase the area under rubber plantations. But in that connection what we have to remember is this. Rubber newly planted would not be of any use for the purposes of the present war. But all possible lands on account of the present situation should be set apart for the cultivation of food and not for rubber.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* The lands which I speak of is about 20 or 30 miles away from human habitation.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* These lands will be unfit for rubber plantation.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government will be pleased to give favourable terms to the Cochinites to see that more of Cochinites take to rubber plantations because the statement placed on the table tells a revealing tale. Now in today's agenda under Revenue administration there is a cut motion to this effect by the Hon'ble Member for Narakkal. "To urge upon the Government to encourage planting by Cochinites by giving favourable terms".

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Mr. President : If applications are made and the terms are suitable they will certainly receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government. But the difficulty at present is that the areas suitable for rubber plantation would mostly be needed for growing food stuffs.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Are Government aware that the new planting rights will expire at the end of 1943 till a revision of the international agreement is made?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* May be. But there is no reason to believe that it would not be extended.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* With regard to the helpful suggestion given by the President, may I get this information from the Government whether in considering applications by Cochinites for plantations favourable terms will be given to them with a view to encourage plantation by Cochinites in deference to the statement that is there which as I said before tells a revealing tale.

Mr. President : The question of giving favourable terms will be sympathetically considered.

EXTENT OF TIMBER FOREST, ETC.

36. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what is the extent of timber forests in the State;

(*b*) what is the acreage planted with teak by the Government?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* (*a*) 582 sq. miles 482·88 acres as it stood on 1st Medam 1118.

(*b*) 7,000·47 acres as it stood at the end of 1117.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* The answer to sub-division (b) is 7,000 acres. May I know how long the Government have been going on with the policy of planting teak. How long has it taken to reach this 7,000 acres.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I think the first plantation was started somewhere about 1045. Then for a long period there was no planting at all. In 1090 or so they started again and up to 1108 they had about 3500 acres. The remaining 3,500 were planted during the last ten years.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What is the allotment per annum for re-afforestation.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* It all depends upon the amount that we are able to spend.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What has been the experience of the Government regarding the results of new planting.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* It has been extremely successful Teak saplings planted some ten years ago are being supplied to the Supply Department for war purposes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What will be the girth after 10 years.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* About 6 to 10 inches in diameter, in favourable localities.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of increasing the allotment for new planting and new sowing?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* The Government have already done it and propose to take about 5,000 acres for afforestation next year.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* What exactly is the quanity of teak extracted from our forests during the last two years.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I am sorry I have not got the exact figures. In 1117 we collected about 15 to 20 thousand candies. Out of this about 10 to 15 thousand came from the trees in the plantations at Palappilli which were up-rooted by the cyclone.

DEVELOPMENT OF NELLIAMPATHI PLANTING DISTRICT—COMMITTEE FOR

37. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government will get a scheme prepared by an expert committee for developing the Nelliampathi Planting District and put it into effect?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* There is no necessity for the appointment of a Committee for the purpose.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Have the Government any scheme for improving the plantations in the Nelliampathies.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* There is a cut motion relating to this and I think it will be better to discuss it in detail then.

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